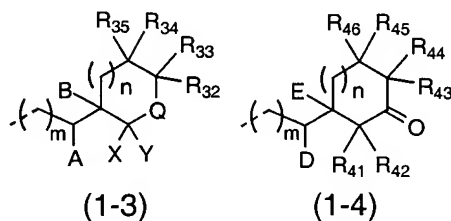


B1 wherein, R_{01} and R_{02} are each independently a hydrogen atom, a trimethylsilyl group, a triethylsilyl group, a t-butyldimethylsilyl group, an acetyl group, a methoxymethyl group or a tetrahydro-4H-pyran-2-yl group;

Z is one out of the following formulae (1-3) and (1-4),



in the above formulae (1-3) and (1-4),

m is an integer of 0 to 2;

n is an integer of 0 to 2;

Q expresses $>C(-F)-R_{31}$ or $>N-R_{31}$, and herein R_{31} is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a trifluoromethyl group, a pentafluoroethyl group, a C_2-C_5 acyloxy group, a C_1-C_4 alkyloxy

group or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group which may be substituted with a hydroxy group, a C₂-C₅ acyloxy group or a C₁-C₄ alkyloxy group;

R₃₂, R₃₃, R₃₄ and R₃₅ are identical to or different from each other, and they are a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a C₁-C₄ alkyl group or a C₂-C₅ acyloxy group;

A and B are identical to or different from each other, and they express a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group, or together express a single bond and form a double bond in cooperation with the single bond already shown in the formula;

B1 X and Y together express a carbonyl group in cooperation with the carbon atom to which they are bonded, one of them is a hydrogen atom and the other is a hydroxyl group, or one of them is a hydrogen atom and the other is a C₂-C₅ acyloxy group;

R₄₁ and R₄₂ are identical to or different from each other, and they express a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a trifluoromethyl group, a pentafluoroethyl group, a C₂-C₅ acyloxy group, a C₁-C₄ alkyloxy group or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group which may be substituted with a hydroxyl group, a C₂-C₅ acyloxy group or a C₁-C₄ alkyloxy group, or both the members together express a C₁-C₅ alkylidene group, or they express a C₃-C₆ cyclic alkyl group in cooperation with the carbon atom to which they are bonded;

R₄₃ and R₄₄ are identical to or different from each other, and they express a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a trifluoromethyl group, a pentafluoroethyl group, a C₂-C₅ acyloxy group, a C₁-C₄ alkyloxy group or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group which may be substituted with a hydroxyl group, a C₂-C₅ acyloxy group or a C₁-C₄ alkyloxy group, or both the members together express a

C₁-C₅ alkylidene group, or express a C₃-C₆ cyclic alkyl group in cooperation with the carbon atom to which they are bonded;

R₄₅ and R₄₆ are identical to or different from each other, and they express a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a trifluoromethyl group, a pentafluoroethyl group, a C₂-C₅ acyloxy group, a C₁-C₄ alkyloxy group or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group which may be substituted with a hydroxyl group, a C₂-C₅ acyloxy group or a C₁-C₄ alkyloxy group;

B1 D and E express each a hydrogen atom, D is a hydroxy group and E expresses a hydrogen atom, D and E together express a single bond and express a double bond in cooperation with the single bond already shown in the formula, or E and R₄₁ together express a single bond and express a double bond in cooperation with the single bond already shown in the formula, wherein D expresses a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group; and R₄₂ expresses a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a trifluoromethyl group, a pentafluoroethyl group, a C₂-C₅ acyloxy group, a C₁-C₄ alkyloxy group or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group which may be substituted with a hydroxyl group, a C₂-C₅ acyloxy group or a C₁-C₄ alkyloxy group,

with the proviso that the following compound (a) is excluded,

(a) a compound in which the groups of one combination out of R₃₂ and R₃₃, R₃₄ and R₃₅, R₄₁ and R₄₂, R₄₃ and R₄₄, and R₄₅ and R₄₆ are both hydroxy groups, both alkyloxy groups, or a hydroxy group and an alkyloxy group.

46. (Amended) A vitamin D₃ compound or a pharmaceutically permissible solvate thereof described in Claim 45, wherein, in the above formula (1), Z is (1-3)

47. (Amended) A vitamin D₃ compound or a pharmaceutically permissible solvate thereof described in Claim 45, wherein, in the above formula (1), Z is (1-4).

B1 48. (Amended) A vitamin D₃ compound or a pharmaceutically permissible solvate thereof described in one out of Claims 45, 46 and 47, wherein, in the above formula (1), R₀₁ and R₀₂ are both hydrogen atoms.

49. (Amended) A vitamin D₃ compound or a pharmaceutically permissible solvate thereof described in one out of Claims 45, 46 and 47, wherein, in the above formula (1), m is 0 or 1.

50. (Amended) A vitamin D₃ compound or a pharmaceutically permissible solvate thereof described in one out of Claims 45, 46 and 47, wherein, in the above formula (1), n is 0 or 1.

51. (Amended) A vitamin D₃ compound or a pharmaceutically permissible solvate thereof described in Claim 46, wherein, in the above formula (1), Q is > C(-F)-R₃₁.

52. (Amended) A vitamin D₃ derivative or a pharmaceutically permissible solvate thereof described in Claim 46, wherein, in the above formula (1), Q is > N-R₃₁.

53. (Amended) A vitamin D₃ compound or a pharmaceutically permissible solvate thereof described in Claim 46, wherein, in the above formula (1), R₃₁ is a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group or a C₁-C₄ alkyl group which may be substituted with a hydroxy group, a C₂-C₅ acyloxy group or a C₁-C₄ alkyloxy group.

54. (Amended) A vitamin D₃ compound or a pharmaceutically permissible solvate thereof described in Claim 46, wherein, in the above formula (1), R₃₂, R₃₃, R₃₄ and R₃₅ are each a hydrogen atom.

55. (Amended) A vitamin D₃ compound or a pharmaceutically permissible solvate thereof described in Claim 46, wherein, in the above formula (1), A and B are both hydrogen atoms, A is a hydroxyl group and B is a hydrogen atom, or A and B together express a single bond and form a double bond in cooperation with the single bond already shown in the formula.

56. (Amended) A vitamin D₃ compound or a pharmaceutically permissible solvate thereof described in Claim 46, wherein, in the above formula (1), X and Y together express a carbonyl group in cooperation with the carbon atom to which they are bonded.

57. (Amended) A vitamin D₃ compound or a pharmaceutically permissible solvate thereof described in Claim 47, wherein, in the above formula (1), R₄₁ and R₄₂ are both hydrogen atoms or together express a methylene group.

58. (Amended) A vitamin D₃ compound or a pharmaceutically permissible solvate thereof described in Claim 47, wherein, in the above formula (1), R₄₃ and R₄₄ are both hydrogen atoms or together express a methylene group.

59. (Amended) A vitamin D₃ compound or a pharmaceutically permissible solvate thereof described in Claim 47, wherein, in the above formula (1), R₄₅ and R₄₆ are both hydrogen atoms.

60. (Amended) A vitamin D₃ compound or a pharmaceutically permissible solvate thereof described in Claim 47, wherein, in the above formula (1), D and E are both hydrogen

B1 atoms, D and E together express a single bond and form a double bond in cooperation with the single bond already shown in the formula, or D is a hydrogen atom and E and R₄₁ together express a single bond and express a double bond in cooperation with the single bond already shown in the formula.

61. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition composed of a vitamin D₃ compound or pharmaceutically permissible solvate thereof described in claim 45 and a pharmaceutically permissible carrier.

Please add the following new claims:

62. (New) A method for treating an inflammatory respiratory disease comprising administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of a vitamin D₃ compound according to claim 45.

B2 63. (New) A method for treating an inflammatory respiratory disease according to claim 62, wherein the inflammatory respiratory disease is at least one selected from the group consisting of acute upper airway infection, chronic sinusitis, allergic rhinitis, chronic lower airway infection, pulmonary emphysema, pneumonia, bronchial asthma, tuberculosis sequela, acute respiratory distress syndrome, cystic fibrosis and pulmonary fibrosis.

64. (New) A method of treating an inflammatory respiratory disease according to claim 63, wherein the inflammatory respiratory disease is an acute upper airway infection selected from at least one of the group consisting of common cold, acute pharyngitis, acute rhinitis, acute sinusitis, acute tonsillitis, acute epiglottitis and acute bronchitis.

65. (New) A method of treating an inflammatory respiratory disease according to claim 64, wherein the inflammatory respiratory disease is a chronic lower airway infection selected from at least one of the group consisting of chronic bronchitis, diffuse panbronchiolitis and bronchiectasis.

66. (New) A method of treating a disease selected from the group consisting of malignant tumors, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, alopecia, acne, psoriasis, and dermatitis, comprising administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of a vitamin D₃ compound according to claim 45.

67. (New) A method of treating hypercalcemia attributable to vitamin D excess, comprising administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of a vitamin D₃ compound according to claim 45.

68. (New) A method of treating hypoparathyroidism, comprising administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of a vitamin D₃ compound according to claim 45.

69. (New) A method of treating a metabolic disorder of cartilage, comprising administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of a vitamin D₃ compound according to claim 45.
